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## THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

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The twenty-first annual meeting of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, which was also the ninth annual meeting of the CENTRAL DIVISION of the Association, was held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., December 28, 29, 30, in accordance with the following invitation :

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, *December 23, 1902.*

In behalf of the authorities of this University, I beg to invite the Modern Language Association to hold their meeting a year hence at this place. We shall be most happy to furnish all facilities for the Society, and to give you a most cordial greeting.

JAMES B. ANGELL, *President.*

The Monday and Tuesday sessions were held in Ann Arbor, in Sarah Caswell Angell Hall in the Barbour Gymnasium; the Wednesday sessions were held in Detroit, in the Banquet Hall of the Cadillac Hotel. Professor George Hempl, President of the Association, presided at all.

Reduced rates were secured from all the railways.

### FIRST SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 28.

The Association met at 3.20 p. m. The session was opened by an address of welcome from President James B. Angell.

The Secretary of the Association, Professor C. H. Grandgent, submitted as his report the published *Proceedings* of the last annual meeting and the complete volume of the *Publications* of the Association for 1903. He announced also the

decision of the Editorial Committee to change the dates of issue of the *Publications* from January, April, July, and October to March, June, September, and December, the objects of the change being to make the nominal dates agree with the actual practice and to avoid the issue of a number during the summer vacation. He called attention, furthermore, to the draft of a new constitution submitted by the Executive Council in response to a vote of the Association, passed on December 29, 1902: "That the Executive Council be requested to report at the next meeting a plan for the revision of the constitution."

The report was approved.

The Treasurer of the Association, Professor H. C. G. von Jagemann, submitted the following report, which, in the absence of the Treasurer, was presented by the Secretary :

#### RECEIPTS.

|  |   |   |   |       |                   |
|--|---|---|---|-------|-------------------|
| Balance on hand, December 29, 1902                                     | . | . | . | .     | \$2,465 88        |
| Annual dues from members and receipts<br>from Subscribing Libraries :— |   |   |   |       |                   |
| For the year 1897,   | . | . | . | \$    | 3 00              |
| " " " 1898,  | . | . | . |       | 6 00              |
| " " " 1899,  | . | . | . |       | 12 00             |
| " " " 1900,  | . | . | . |       | 15 00             |
| " " " 1901,  | . | . | . |       | 30 00             |
| " " " 1902,  | . | . | . |       | 77 70             |
| " " " 1903,  | . | . | . |       | 1,842 89          |
| " " " 1904,  | . | . | . |       | 71 10             |
|  |   |   |   | ————— | \$2,057 69        |
| Sale of <i>Publications</i> , 1893–1903,                               | . | . | . | .     | 150 00            |
| Interest on deposits,  | . | . | . | .     | 77 93             |
| Reprints,  | . | . | . | .     | 22 25             |
| Advertisements,  | . | . | . | .     | 150 00            |
| Deposit returned by P. O.,   | . | . | . | .     | 14 00             |
|  |   |   |   | ————— | \$2,471 87        |
|  |   |   |   |       | <u>\$4,937 75</u> |

EXPENDITURES.

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Publication of Vol. XVIII, No. 1, and Reprints,       | \$415 38                 |
| “ “ “ “ “ 2, “ “                                      | 368 88                   |
| “ “ “ “ “ 3, “ “                                      | 293 61                   |
| “ “ “ “ “ 4, “ “                                      | { 535 65                 |
| “ “ “ “ “ “   | { 20 25                  |
|   | —————\$1,633 77          |
| The Secretary, . . . . .                              | 200 00                   |
| Committee on Bibliography, . . . . .                  | 45 00                    |
| Printing of Programs for 20th and 21st Ann. Meetings, | 77 73                    |
| Stationery and Job Printing, . . . . .                | 40 75                    |
| Postage, . . . . .                                    | 71 82                    |
| Expressage, . . . . .                                 | 90                       |
| Clerical Work, . . . . .                              | 34 03                    |
| Central Division, . . . . .                           | 9 75                     |
| Local Committee for Special R. R. Agent, . . . . .    | 6 00                     |
| Bank Discount, . . . . .                              | 4 33                     |
|   | —————\$2,124 08          |
| Balance on hand, December 24, 1903, . . . . .         | 2,813 67                 |
|   | <u><u>\$4,937 75</u></u> |

The President of the Association, Professor George Hempl, appointed the following committees :

- (1) To audit the Treasurer's report : Professors W. H. Carruth and A. G. Canfield.
- (2) To nominate officers : Professors L. F. Mott, F. A. Blackburn, J. T. Hatfield, G. Gruener, and O. F. Emerson.
- (3) To recommend a place for the next annual meeting : Professors C. Thomas, A. R. Hohlfeld, S. W. Cutting, and Dr. W. W. Comfort.

The President also announced the following committees to serve for the Central Division of the Association :

- (1) To nominate officers : Professors B. Wilson, J. S. Nollen, J. R. Effinger, Jr., and C. G. Dunlap.
- (2) To recommend a place for the next annual meeting : Professors W. H. Carruth, C. W. Pearson, C. W. Eastman, and Dr. P. S. Allen.

The reading of papers was then begun.

1. "The Foliation Systems of French Incunabula." By Dr. George C. Keidel, of the Johns Hopkins University. In the absence of the author, the paper was read by Dr. H. P. Thieme.

[Leaves, not pages, were the units in the oldest French printed books. They were gathered together into signatures, which latter, juxtaposed in their turn, formed a complete work. The signatures were designated by the letters of the alphabet, and might contain any convenient number of leaves. The systems used to designate the signatures varied widely, and give rise to many interesting observations. Their influence is oftentimes still perceptible in French books of our own day.—*Twenty minutes.*]

2. "Notes on the Text of Goethe's *Egmont*." By Professor James Taft Hatfield, of Northwestern University.

[The Editor of the text of *Egmont* for the Weimar edition was not in possession of all the apparatus. The paper gives a description of further materials, and indicates certain changes in the standard text which they seem to require.—*Twenty minutes.*]

3. "The Nature of French Rhythm and its Relation to Prose and Verse." By Dr. Hugo P. Thieme, of the University of Michigan.

[Based on syllable count, there is a definite line of demarcation between French prose and verse. The nearer French prose is to verse, according to this principle, the better the style. The best French prose writers (in constructive and imaginative literature) are nearer to verse by virtue of the rhythmical quality of their prose.—*A ten-minute abstract.*]

At the request of the President, Professor Raymond Weeks, of the University of Missouri, made a brief statement concerning the newly discovered manuscript of *Aliscans*, printed under the title of *La Chancun de Willame*:

The announcement that a hitherto unknown manuscript of *Aliscans* had been printed *privatissime* in London set all lovers of this ancient poem wild with eagerness. This manuscript, whose owner is unknown, has been